

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-20 CU-05 SCCT-02 DRC-01

/120 W

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P R 160942Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7755

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3947

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MY

SUBJ: COMMUNIST TERRORISTS STRIKE AGAIN IN PERAK

REF: A. KL 3755

B. KL A-106, 8/8/74

C. KL 2485

1. SUMMARY: COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CT'S) STRUCK TWICE DURING PAST WEEK AT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NORTHERN PERAK: ON AUG 11, CT'S SET FIRE TO A TRUCK NEAR TEMENGGOR DAM SITE; AND ON AUG 15, THREE WORKERS AND TWO SECURITY GUARDS WERE KILLED AND EIGHT
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OTHERS INJURED WHEN CT'S AMBUSHED A WORK PARTY ON THE EAST-WEST

HIGHWAY NEAR GRIK. END SUMMARY.

2. CT CAPABILITY TO STRIKE AT VULNERABLE TARGETS IN JUNGLE AREAS OF NORTHERN PERAK NEAR THAI BORDER WAS SHOWN IN TWO INCIDENTS IN PAST WEEK. ON AUGUST 17; CT'S STOPPED TRUCK CARRYING WORKERS TO TEMENGGOR DAM SITE APPROXIMATELY 18 MILES SOUTHEAST OF GRIK, ORDERED WORKERS AT GUN-POINT TO FLEE AREA WITH WARNING TO STOP WORKING ON DAM, THEN SET FIRE TO TRUCK. SUBSEQUENTLY WHAT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SAME CT GROUP ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY TRUCK-BORNE CRANE WITH EXPLOSIVES BUT REPORTEDLY INFLICTED ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE.

3. ON AUG 15, LAND ROVER AND TRUCK CARRYING WORKERS AND SECURITY GUARDS (PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEER CORPS, FORMERLY VIGILANTE CORPS) STRUCK MINES ON EAST-WEST HIGHWAY TRACK ABOUT 11 MILES EAST OF GRIK. FOLLOWING MINE EXPLOSIONS, CT'S OPENED FIRE FROM ROADSIDE JUNGLE KILLING THREE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT WORKERS AND TWO GUARDS AND WOUNDING EIGHT OTHERS. FIRE WAS RETURNED BUT NO CASUALTIES REPORTED AMONG CT'S WHO NUMBERED ABOUT TWENTY.

4. THESE INCIDENTS FOLLOW EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ALONG EASZGAWEST HIGHWAY IN LATE MAY (REF C; SEE ALSO IR 6862011974 30 JULY 74). ROAD PROJECT IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO OPEN UP JUNGLE AREA BETWEEN GRIK AND KAMPONG LAWAR IN KELANTAN TO SETTLEMENT, THEREBY INHIBITING CT MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THEIR REDOUBT IN BETONG SALIENT ON THAI SIDE. THUS IT IS OBVIOUSLY A PRIME TARGET FOR MCP CHAIRMAN CHIN PENG'S 12TH REGIMENT. WORK ON THE ROAD HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY THE VOICE OF THE MALAYAN REVOLUTION, AND CT LEAFLETS HAVE THREATENED TO STOP CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMENGGOR DAM.

5. COMMENT: WHILE CT INCIDENTS IN BORDER AREA OBVIOUSLY ARE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOM DURING THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, THE CT HAVE THUS FAR NOT THREATENED TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS FORCIBLY, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO URGE SUPPORTERS TO BOYCOTT THEM. ON THE GOVT SIDE, PLANNING FOR SECURITY OF THE ROAD AND FOR GRADUAL SETTLEMENT OF POPULATION CAPABLE OF HOLDING OWN WITH CT'S HAS SIMPLY NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT.

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WE UNDERSTAND THAT MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY GOING ON TO RECTIFY THIS OMISSION BUT THE PROBLEM IS SO DIFFICULT THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT A QUICK OR EASY SOLUTION.

UNDERHILL

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